KV FOCUS

HAPPY NEW YEAR

www.kvcc.edu/register

A Kalamazoo Valley Community College Publication
January 2018

KalamazooVALLEY community college

URBAN HOMESTEADING
SMALL SCALE FARMING & FOOD STORAGE CRAFT

Kalamazoo Valley Food Innovation Center (FIC) instructor Lee Arbogast moved from an organic farm in Bangor to Kalamazoo three years ago. He's teaching an urban homesteading class this spring to encourage students to use small scale farming and food preservation techniques – no matter where they live. "Part of me wants to renew my own commitment to urban homesteading," he said. "I want to refresh my own habits in the context of urban production in general."

The class, "Urban Homesteading: At Home Production for Health, Community and a New American Ecology," runs from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays from March 22 to May 10 at the FIC. Although he'll tailor his class sessions to his students' interests, Arbogast plans to offer instruction on a variety of topics including growing mushrooms, composting, gardening, foraging for wild edibles, and caring for livestock.

"The resources here are perfect because they're adaptable for home use and students will be able to see the processes in play," Arbogast said of the FIC. "We'll have ongoing demonstrations and every class will include something to take home."

The FIC is located at 224 East Crosstown Parkway on the college's Bronson Healthy Living Campus in downtown Kalamazoo.

Arbogast said two of his goals for class participants are self-empowerment and self-care. "It's all about learning new things and learning how to master self-confidence and take care of yourself even when you don't know what you're doing yet," Arbogast said. "For some of the instruction, I'll be a co-learning leader. It's an opportunity for all of us to perfect our techniques."

Arbogast will demonstrate indoor mushroom and sprout growing and hydroponic techniques. Participants will leave class with plants to transplant into their own gardens. He expects the class to appeal to all ages. "You just need a willingness to learn and move your body," he said.

The course fee is $140 and registration is open now.

For more information or to register, go to www.kvcc.edu/community or contact program coordinator Melody Woods at mwoods@kvcc.edu or call 269.353.1290.

Instructor Lee Arbogast

CONTINUING EDUCATION

You've made a commitment to eating healthy and conserving resources. Take it one step further and commit to exercising. Make those resolutions a reality with a Kalamazoo Valley Community and Continuing Education class.

Start using the Wellness and Fitness Center by signing up for a Fitness Center Basics class, or take an Aqua Zumba or Zumba class.

For the complete schedule of classes, offerings like Spanish for the Medical Professional, cooking classes for youth, and Master Rain Gardening, go to www.kvcc.edu/community or contact program coordinator Melody Woods at 269.353.1290.

COLLEGE PARTNERS WITH STATE OF MICHIGAN
FOR NEW JOB BOARD

Interested in working as an accountant in Ann Arbor, an IT specialist in the Upper Peninsula or perhaps an electrician right here in Kalamazoo? These jobs and nearly 100,000 other positions are currently available through Pure Michigan Talent Connect, Kalamazoo Valley Community College's new online job board which connects Michigan's job seekers and employers.

The site, www.mitalent.org, serves as a central hub linking all public and private stakeholders who support Michigan's workforce. The college announced its partnership with the state in December. The website is free to use and available to job seekers and employers throughout the state.

"We want people to be educated in Michigan and to stay in Michigan to work and keep our economy going," said Tracey Quada, student employment relations liaison for Kalamazoo Valley. "The Pure Michigan Talent Connect job board helps makes that happen."

Quada said the site is easy to navigate and offers a number of free resources for job seekers.

"This partnership is great for our students," Quada explained. "It's very user friendly and really allows the job seeker to customize his or her search based on job title, key words, education and so much more."

Those looking for employment will find career exploration tools, including skills assessments and soft skills training as well as employment trends, salary information and links to area career fairs.

Specific information also is available for area veterans looking for work. Veteran career advisors are available through the site as well as lists of employers who are interested in hiring veterans.

"Transferring from the military to the civilian workforce can be difficult," Quada said. "Pure Michigan Talent Connect provides resources to make it easier. Not all employment sites offer these kinds of resources."

Additionally, the site addresses the growing need for people in the skilled trades with detailed information for students, parents and educators regarding post-secondary education options, including apprenticeship opportunities.

"There is a real shortage of people trained in the skilled trades," Quada said. "There are many excellent careers that require different levels of education that are high paying and offer real job security."

To meet this growing need, Kalamazoo Valley offers more than 30 different degree and certificate programs in the industrial trades, including automotive technology, construction and maintenance trades, engineering/design/manufacturing technology, welding technology and occupational technical studies.

The site's ease of use and available resources are just as impressive for employers, according to Mary McConnell, workforce coordinator for Kalamazoo Valley. McConnell works with Quada in the college's Employment Services department.

"It's very easy to create an account, post a job and get qualified responses the same day," McConnell said. "Employers have access to thousands of resumes and are able to search specifically for Kalamazoo Valley students and alumni."

McConnell works with employers interested in hiring Kalamazoo Valley students by connecting them with students, faculty and alumni as well as organizing on-campus recruitment. She is available to assist them if they have questions about posting a job on the site.

"Several of our employer partners have already started posting to the site," McConnell said. "I encourage others to check it out."

For more information, visit www.mitalent.org. Employers with questions about the job board or who are interested in on-campus recruiting should contact McConnell at mmcconnell@kvcc.edu or 269.488.4046.

EARLY COLLEGE
OPEN HOUSE FEBRUARY 6

Parents interested in saving money and getting their children a jump start on a college education are encouraged to attend next month's Early College Open House at the Kalamazoo Air Zoo. The event, February 6 from 5:30-7:30 p.m., is free and open to all students in grades 8-11 and their parents.

Attendees will have the opportunity to visit with teachers and students to learn more about Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Early College program, including steps for participation.

The Early College program allows students to earn an associate degree or certificate for little or no cost by completing a fifth year of high school. Students delay high school graduation for one year while they take college courses at Kalamazoo Valley. Tuition and fees are paid by the local school district up to the state maximum allowed. Applications to the Early College program for the 2018-2019 school year are due by March 10, 2018.

"Early College is a great opportunity – academically and economically – for students and parents in southwest Michigan," according to Kalamazoo Valley's Dean of Instruction – Early College Dr. Deborah Coates.
Early College expands on traditional dual enrollment and builds upon classes already offered through Kalamazoo RESA's (KRESA) Education for Employment (EFE) and Education for the Arts (EFA). Students take courses at Kalamazoo Valley campuses, but may also take Kalamazoo Valley courses at their high school (in certain school districts), or through EFE and EFA.

The program, explained Coates, is designed to help students get a head start on whatever they decide to do after graduating from high school, whether that's going into the workforce or continuing on with their education.

"Education is evolving and this is part of it. Early College prepares students for the world and makes sure they have as many options as possible," Coates said. "Students considering Early College should be willing, motivated, and up for the challenge to perform successfully at the college level."

In addition to the college coursework, students must successfully complete all of the requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

Four hundred and twenty five students from the Gull Lake, Kalamazoo, Galesburg-Augusta, Parchment, Schoolcraft, Vicksburg, Climax-Scotts and Portage school districts are currently enrolled in the Early College program at Kalamazoo Valley - an increase of 175 students from last year. Additionally, the Van Buren Technology Center has 17 students poised to graduate in May with up to an associate degree from Kalamazoo Valley and their high school diploma. "The number of Early College students has steadily increased since the program was launched four years ago," Coates said. "We started with just 15 students. I'm hoping that we add another 200 students for the upcoming school year and bring our enrollment to well over 600 students. There is real potential for growth."

To assist the growing number of Early College students, Kalamazoo Valley created an Early College team comprised of Coates, Pathway Advisor Kevin Lavender and Academic Counselors Natalie York and Nina Dickerson.

"Together, our team can provide a more seamless access to student services," Coates said. "It helps keep students on the path to success."

Students have access to all of the support services that are available at Kalamazoo Valley, including academic counseling, tutoring, career counseling, life resources and employment services.

Students are required to meet with their pathway advisor or academic counselor each semester to discuss any concerns and upcoming semester classes. During the 10th and 11th grade, the meetings take place in the high school. As the student gets further into the program, the meeting location shifts to Kalamazoo Valley's campus.

Mia May, Early College student

Additionally, the local school districts have designated Early College contacts and KRESA provides Early College mentors to students within the program. Students meet with their mentor bi-weekly to ensure students stay on track – reviewing grades and coursework as well as working with students on time management, study skills and note-taking strategies.

And since college isn't all about studying, Fifth Year First Friday events were introduced this year to encourage Early College student socialization on campus.

For more information, visit www.kvcc.edu/earlycollege or contact Coates at dcoates@kvcc.edu or 269.488.4509.

KALAMAZOO VALLEY HONORS STUDENTS
RECEIVE STATE RECOGNITION

Betsy Kooistra

Kalamazoo Valley Honors Program student Betsy Kooistra won an award from the Michigan Political Science Association (MIPSA) for her research paper about the public's dissatisfaction with politics. During MIPSA's October conference at Eastern Michigan University, she earned the MIPSA Undergraduate Paper Award for her paper titled, "Perception of Polarization: Impacts on Congress."

MIPSA is a nonpartisan state professional association of educators, scholars, students, and practitioners dedicated to advancing the study of government, politics, and public policy.

Kooistra started her research by asking, "Is party polarization crippling lawmakers?" She expected to find a simple answer. "Instead I found that the public is frustrated with elected officials, that, in turn, these officials are paralyzed by the expectations of their constituents, and that while the majority of the country is not politically extreme, or polarized, there is a clear divide in the nation that is halting the legislative branch," Kooistra said.

She explained that neither side is willing to compromise very much, or at all on issues. "Congress stands still. The public grows increasingly impatient, then votes for whichever candidate promises to fight harder for the people. The issue worsens and the cycle continues," she said. "For this reason, I concluded that the cause of unsatisfactory Congressional efficiency is far more complicated than polarization alone, and has much more to do with the public's perception of polarization and how this effects the political behavior and voting patterns in the United States."

In addition to Kooistra's award winning paper, Kalamazoo Valley Honors Program students Austin Ladd, Sarah Blok, Dakota McCracken, Katie French and Rebekah Bensley were recognized as the student paper award finalists.

Faculty members submit student papers written in an undergraduate political science course during the previous academic year. "All of the honors student finalists developed their own original semester research project ideas and collected research to address a central question of American politics. Betsy Kooistra's paper won due to both her creative originality in developing her research project idea, and her well-thought out analysis of the data to draw some fascinating conclusions on partisan polarization and its impact on congress," said Kevin Dockerty, Kalamazoo Valley political science instructor and former MIPSA board member.

"Participating in the conference is a good opportunity for our students to compete with other students from around the state," Dockerty explained. The students and Dockerty felt a sense of community that energized them all to do their best work. "We definitely helped each other a lot and as I was writing the paper I started to realize that I had something special," Kooistra said.

"When I entered Kevin's class I was really torn about what I wanted to do. I knew that in the future I might want to go into government in some capacity, but after the class I decided that I wanted to go into political science," Kooistra remarked. "I came into the Honors Program thinking I was a pretty good writer, but now that I am almost done I realize how much I have learned and grown."

"Our Honors Program is very writing intensive and in-part, the fact that our students were recognized at the conference, gives us validation. Honors students go through extremely rigorous English classes that enable them to create very well written research papers," said Valley's Honors Program Director, Stephen Louisell. "The education the Honors Program offers enables our students to be prepared to transfer to any four-year college or university they choose."

"Winning this award validates the effort that I put into the Honors Program and Kevin's class. The classes aren't easy. This is confirmation that I am headed in the right direction," Kooistra said.

For more information about Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Honors Program visit www.kvcc.edu/campuslife/orgs/honors.

NURSING STUDENTS
BUSY SERVING COMMUNITY

Jessica Dykstra (left) and Amber Smith

From serving Thanksgiving dinner at the Rickman House, to raising funds for Strides Against Breast Cancer to adopting Kalamazoo Gospel Mission families for the holidays, Kalamazoo Valley Student Nurse Association (SNA) members are gaining leadership skills and are cultivating a holistic approach to patient care that complements classroom and lab assignments.

"Service projects help students take care of the community," said Director of Nursing Patricia Henning. Kalamazoo Valley nursing students are a part of a national movement that is dedicated to fostering the professional development of nurses. The National Student Nurse Association's mission is to mentor students preparing for initial licensure as registered nurses, and to convey the standards, ethics, and skills that students will need as responsible and accountable leaders and members of the profession.

Kalamazoo Valley nursing faculty members Victoria Hileski and Theresa Shane serve as sponsors and credit the success of the local association to strong student leaders. "When our students are out in the community, they demonstrate their care for the community," Hileski explained.

SNA member Matt Cleveland initially joined because he thought it would look good on his resume. "Volunteering opened my eyes about how nurses can expand service outside of a clinical setting," he said. Cleveland, who returned to college after a 22-year-career as a machinist with FEMA Corp., is married to a Kalamazoo Valley Nursing Program graduate who is an obstetrics nurse at Bronson Methodist Hospital. "I've learned firsthand that you don't turn off being a nurse when you punch out at the end of a shift," he said.

Amber Smith, president of the SNA, said that the college's program is "totally preparing me" for a professional career. "Learning about community resources will make me a better nurse," she said. "This way, I'll be able to provide a complete approach to patient care."

Before she decided on a nursing career, Jessica Dykstra, vice president of the SNA, worked at Borgess Medical Center and noted that Kalamazoo Valley nursing graduates were very professional. "I choose Valley because of its great reputation," she said. "I've always been a leader so it seemed natural for me to join the SNA. I like being able to make a difference in the community."

The Nursing Program at Kalamazoo Valley prepares students for a technical career in nursing. Employment opportunities are nearly unlimited and include acute care hospitals, long-term acute care and extended care facilities, clinics, medical offices, home health and ambulatory care. Graduates may transfer credits toward a Bachelor of Science in nursing degree at many colleges and universities, including Davenport University located in the college's University Center on the Texas Township Campus.

"Our students attend classes in the new Culinary and Allied Health Building on the college's Bronson Healthy Living Campus. In addition to the benefits of these new facilities, which include state of the art simulation labs, our students complete off campus clinical rotations," Henning said.

The Kalamazoo Valley Community College Registered Nurse (RN) Completion Program is approved by the Michigan State Board of Nursing. It includes two semesters of prerequisite course work and two semesters of nursing course work for the full-time RN completion student. Financial aid, scholarships, tutoring, and counseling services are available to assist students.

Upon successful completion of all nursing course work, graduates receive an Associate in Applied Science degree and are eligible to write the National Council Licensure Exam for the Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN).

Applications for the fall (September) Nursing Program will be accepted during the first two weeks of April and are available in February through the second week in April.

Applications for the winter (January) Nursing Program will be accepted during the last two weeks of September and are available in August and September.

Applications may be obtained from the Texas Township Campus Nursing Program office (posted outside of Room 7426) or online during the application dates listed above.

Interested students can learn more by visiting www.kvcc.edu/nursing.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
Eric Wimbley

Pretty Lake Camp Executive Director Eric Wimbley credits Kalamazoo Valley Community College with helping him to develop a passion for learning. The Kalamazoo Central High School graduate came to Kalamazoo Valley right after high school, but it took him many years to find success in college.

Pretty Lake Camp is a non-profit community organization that has provided a cost-free summer camp experience to more than 50,000 at-risk youth from Kalamazoo County. Camp experiences have enriched the lives of thousands of youth by offering a safe, structured and encouraging environment in a natural setting.

"After graduating from high school I soon discovered the hard way that I was not prepared to be a full-time college student, "Wimbley recalled. "I spent a number of up and down semesters and years trying to determine how to successfully complete college. Even though some of those semesters were flat out failures, what I remember most about the personal failures is that neither the instructors nor the college ever gave up on me. I learned perseverance and how to overcome the hurdles outside of the classroom, such as food, shelter, and transportation. One of the most beneficial gestures by the college was the year they gave forgiveness for failed classes. To me that was another message that they weren't giving up on their students."

During his continued attempts at college, Wimbley was fortunate enough to get into a career without having a degree. "I continued on with my education because I knew that advancing in my career might still require a degree." After a number of semesters taking one or two classes at a time, he earned an associate degree and then went on to earn a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Siena Heights University.

Wimbley had a 25-year career with the Michigan State Police where he went on to become a post commander, attend graduate classes at Eastern Michigan University in the School of Police Staff and Command, and complete the National FBI Academy for Leadership in Quantico, Virginia. "All of my academic and career achievements were possible because of the perseverance and academic fundamentals I developed at Kalamazoo Valley Community College," he said. "I also learned from the staff at Kalamazoo Valley that one of the keys to true success is building relationships."

Wimbley said he first developed a passion for learning and teaching at Kalamazoo Valley. "The first time an opportunity presented itself, I became an instructor at the police academy at Kalamazoo Valley," he said. After retiring from the Michigan State Police, he became a high school teacher at the Allegan Area Educational Service Agency and later went on to work at Kalamazoo College as Director of Security before moving on to Pretty Lake Camp, where he is now the executive director.

"While I have had many opportunities to develop myself and my career, my true passion has always been providing opportunities for others to develop to their potential, "Wimbley said. "Over the past 18 months I have been the executive director at Pretty Lake Camp. For more than 100 years Pretty Lake has been providing free summer camp to kids who can't afford to go to camp. I was one of those kids who took advantage of that free summer camp experience. For the next 40 years, camp was never far from my life. Camp provided me with my first job, I spent summers working as a counselor, lifeguard, and kitchen help. Camp provided me with my first opportunity to serve on a board, I spent parts of the last two decades serving on the board and volunteering. Most importantly camp provided me a platform to be the best role model I can and to be a road map for others."

HAVIRMILL CAFE

Visit the Havirmill Cafe and 418 Restaurant for delicious student made meals.
Visit www.kvcc.edu/dining for details.

418 FOUR•ONE•EIGHT

GOING TO THE LIBRARY
HAS A NEW MEANING

Kalamazoo Valley libraries have adapted to the changing needs of college students. There is no doubt that the advancement of technology has changed a library's purpose and use.

Kalamazoo Valley libraries aim to:

- Provide access to innovative and traditional information resources
- Support teaching, learning and research success
- Foster an inviting user-friendly environment

"We've all had to adapt with the times," said Kalamazoo Valley Director of Libraries, Mark Walters who has more than 15 years of library experience and recently finished his Master of Library Science degree from Kent State University.

While nothing compares to visiting the open space on the Texas Township Campus or the convenience of the Arcadia Commons Campus library, the days of self-containment have come and gone. Libraries are not just about books and journals anymore," Walters explains. He remembers a time when students didn't email their professors and waiting for an article to come from another library was a common practice. "It's completely different now," said Walters.

More and more students rely on email for communication and online assets for research. "Libraries are good at acting as a filter to help students find information and to help them think about the perspective of a source and how to determine credibility," Walters said.

Kalamazoo Valley libraries offer 24/7 online "Ask a Librarian Chat" for all types of questions. It also offers help with citation, which includes NoodleTools citation software.

With Kalamazoo Valley libraries, students have access to articles, research databases and libguides at their fingertips. "Libguides provide pathways for patrons to find resources that they need, and resources that they may have not even been aware of," Walters explained. "All of these are ways to use the library in addition to coming in and talking to a librarian."

"We can offer so much more now," Walters said. "Libraries are a link in the chain between faculty and students." Kalamazoo Valley assists instructors with teaching proper research skills. Many resources are available for faculty which include instructional classroom sessions, the library classroom and course reserves. Instructors can place items like textbooks or videos on reserve for their students for limited loan periods. For general borrowing, students and staff can borrow up to 15 items for three weeks and have the option to renew these checkouts up to two times.

View from the top level of the Texas Township Library

The Kalamazoo Valley library collection includes more than 3,000 DVDs and music CDs, 57,000+ print books, 138,000+ E-Books, 90+ online databases with access to full text articles and streaming videos, and 135+ print magazines, journals, and newspapers. In conjunction with faculty, the libraries have developed film and AV equipment to support course curricula. The library also plans to grow the collection of materials related to vocational fields of study like automotive and culinary. In the Culinary and Allied Health Building on the Bronson Healthy Living Campus a collection of cook books and recipes may soon turn into its own library.

Technology may be the way of the future but there will always be a need for a physical library. "Part of the challenge is being selective about what to digitize and what to put on the shelves," Walters said. "Digital preservation can be expensive and you lose something each time you migrate information from one format to another." Walters explained that keeping a book in an appropriate space can be the best way to preserve the information, rather than using digital preservation, which may not be compatible in the future.

"What makes Kalamazoo Valley's libraries unique are the librarians and the support staff that work here. They all have great institutional knowledge and their connections and ability to collaborate with different departments is amazing," said Walters.

For more information about library hours or services visit www.kvcc.edu/library. Both libraries have made accommodations related to accessibility including a print enlarger, JAWS screen reading software and wheelchair accessibility.

Student studying at the Texas Township Library

Kalamazoo Valley Community College
6767 West O Avenue, PO Box 4070
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 995
Kalamazoo, MI

Kalamazoo Valley Community College
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jeffrey E. Patton *Chairman*
Lucinda M. Stinson *Vice Chairman*
Susan L. Miller *Secretary*
A. Christian Schauer *Treasurer*
Patrick A. Farmer *Trustee*
Mary T. Gustas *Trustee*
T. Kenneth Young *Trustee*
Marilyn Schlack *President*

KV Focus is a publication of Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Questions about the publication may be directed to the college marketing department at 269.488.4821.

Editor: Linda Depta
Managing Editor: Dawn Kemp
Designer: Robyn Hughes
Photographers: Stevie Cipielewski, Linda Depta, Clayton Dusendang, Robyn Hughes
Contributors: Stevie Cipielewski, Linda Depta, Erin Dominianni, Dawn Kemp

It is the policy of Kalamazoo Valley Community College not to discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, height, weight, or marital status in its programs, services, employment or activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Executive Vice President for Enrollment and Campus Operations, 6767 West O Avenue, P. O. Box 4070, Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070, 269.488.4434.